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# CITRUS

## MATURITY TEST RESULTS



September 10, 1999

These maturity tests are the first of the 1999-2000 season. Fruit was picked August 31 and September 1 and tested September 2-3. All five areas of Florida's citrus belt were sampled. Fruit for these tests are from the variable bloom mid-February through May. No June or later bloom fruit was sampled.

The wet and dry winter and spring caused one of the most unusual blooms in recent history. Trees in all areas were wet during the winter through February when the bloom cycle started. Bloom continued through the spring as the dry conditions prevailed with occasional thunderstorms that generated new growth and additional bloom flowers. Many well cared for groves that had continuous irrigation had a somewhat normal bloom cycle. However, groves that did not have constant irrigation experienced a much later than normal bloom. June was wetter than normal and virtually all new crop fruit progressed very well. During July and

part of August some growers had to depend on irrigation to maintain good tree and fruit condition.

These maturity tests for early and mid oranges and white grapefruit show slightly higher acid levels than last year at the same time. Only colored grapefruit have lower acid. All types tested have lower juice levels and lower pounds solids than last year. Again, this year the lagging maturity factors are attributed to the abnormal weather during the winter and spring.

There currently are several packing houses preparing to run early bloom Navels and grapefruit. Many field representatives from various fresh fruit packing houses are testing early bloom fruit for September shipments.

The next Maturity Test results will be published with the October 8, 1999, citrus forecast. That release will be at 8:30 a.m.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
ORANGES:										
Early (120-120)										
Sep 1	1.72	1.73	9.52	9.35	5.68	5.53	42.14	41.09	4.01	3.83
Mids (55-55)										
Sep 1	1.94	1.99	9.41	9.13	4.96	4.69	42.51	39.47	4.00	3.60
GRAPEFRUIT:										
Seedless										
White (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.80	1.83	10.08	10.24	5.62	5.61	30.83	29.15	3.10	2.97
Colored (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.78	1.75	9.94	10.07	5.60	5.79	31.75	29.02	3.15	2.92

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, September 1, 1999

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.78	9.53	5.42	39.03	3.71
Other Areas	109	1.73	9.33	5.54	41.30	3.84
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	2.06	9.48	4.64	36.36	3.44
Other Areas	44	1.97	9.04	4.70	40.24	3.64
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.87	10.42	5.60	28.19	2.93
Other Areas	15	1.75	9.81	5.63	31.39	3.08
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	39	1.78	10.20	5.74	27.89	2.85
Other Areas	11	1.63	9.61	5.97	33.03	3.19